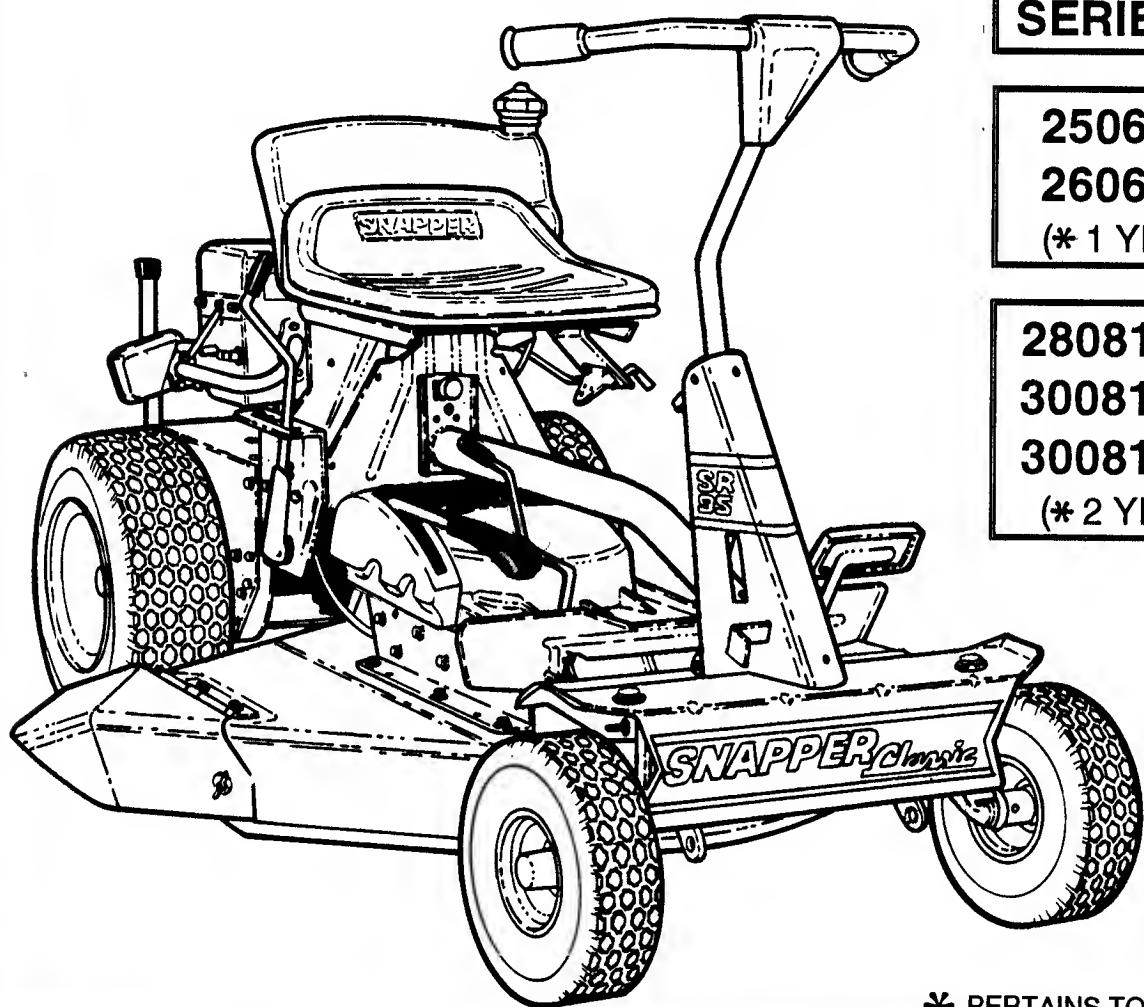


# Safety Instructions & Operator's Manual

# **SNAPPER**

## RIDING MOWERS

AUTOMATIC BLADE STOP &  
SMOOTH START CLUTCH EQUIPPED



**SERIES 12**

**250612T**  
**260612T**  
(\* 1 YEAR)

**280812BE**  
**300812B**  
**300812BE**  
(\* 2 YEAR)

\* PERTAINS TO WARRANTIES

Thank you for buying a **SNAPPER** product! Before operating your mower, read this manual carefully and pay particular attention to the **Important Safety Instructions** on page 2. Remember that mowers and all power equipment can be dangerous if used improperly and keep in mind that safety requires careful use in accordance with the instructions and....common sense!

This Operator's Manual covers **SERIES 12** (last two numbers in the multi digit model designation) REAR ENGINE RIDING MOWERS. The first two digits indicate the width of cut. The next two digits give the horsepower rating. Models having a "B" suffix are Briggs & Stratton powered, and those with a "T" are powered by Tecumseh engines. Models having an "E" suffix are Electric Start.

# IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

**WARNING:** This powerful cutting machine is capable of amputating hands and feet and can throw objects that can cause injury and damage! Failure to observe the following safety instructions could result in serious injury or death. Carefully read this manual and question your dealer if something is not clear. Should the dealer be unable to answer to your satisfaction, write or call:

*Customer Service Department,  
SNAPPER, McDonough, Georgia, 30253  
(Phone 404-957-9141).*

## PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN

1. **DO NOT** allow children or pets in the yard when the mower is being operated.
2. **DO NOT** allow children to ride on the mower or attachments.
3. **DO NOT** allow pre-teenage children to operate the mower.
4. Only responsible teenagers with mature judgement, and possessing the physical size, and strength to reach and operate controls shall be allowed to operate the mower and *only under close mature adult supervision*.

## PROTECTION AGAINST TIPOVERS

1. **DO NOT** operate the mower on slopes exceeding 15° (27% Grade).
2. On slopes above 10° (18% Grade), exercise extreme caution; turn the blade OFF when traveling uphill; **DO NOT** mow across slopes; reduce speed to *No. 1* position; avoid sharp turns, and uphill starting.
3. **AVOID UPHILL STARTS.** If the machine is stopped while going up a slope, turn the blade off and back slowly down the slope.
4. **DO NOT** mow under any conditions where traction or stability is doubtful *until* you have first test driven over the terrain with the blade OFF.
5. Stay alert for holes and other hidden hazards and keep away from ditches, washouts, culverts, fences, and protruding objects.
6. Always begin *forward* motion in the *No. 1* speed position.
7. Use a weighted load carrier on the front when using a grass catcher on slopes above 10° (18% Grade).

## OTHER IMPORTANT PRECAUTIONS

1. Read the operator's manuals (furnished with attachments) and follow the instructions in them.
2. Only mature, responsible persons shall operate the mower.
3. Mount and dismount the mower from the **LEFT** side.
4. Wear appropriate protective clothing such as: substantial footwear and long pants. **NEVER** go barefoot or wear open sandals when mowing!
5. Practice operating the mower with the blade OFF to learn the location of the controls, and develop operating skill.
6. Persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs **MUST** not operate the mower.
7. Know how to stop the blade and engine quickly in preparation for emergencies.
8. Keep people and pets at a **safe** distance from the mower.

9. Shields, deflectors, switches, blade controls and other safety devices **MUST** be in proper position and functional.
10. Remove from the area to be mowed, wire, rocks and any other objects that, if thrown by a moving blade, could cause injury.
11. Stop the blade, shift into **NEU** (Neutral) and set the parking brake whenever leaving the mower momentarily *with the engine running*. Make sure the blade is stopped by seeing that the belt is not moving.
12. **When leaving the mower unattended:** *Shut off the engine, shift into a forward speed, set the parking brake, and remove the key!*
13. **DO NOT** operate the mower unless properly seated, and with both feet on the pads or pedals.
14. Keep hands and feet away from the rotating blade beneath deck. Never place feet on the ground while the blade is ON or when the mower is in motion.
15. Turn the blade OFF, stop the engine, and wait for the blade to stop BEFORE attempting to unclog grass or leaves!
16. The blade **MUST** be shifted OFF except when cutting grass. Set the deck in the **highest** position when mowing over rough ground.
17. A deflector or grass catcher **MUST** be in position. **NEVER** point discharge at people, passing cars, windows or doors. Watch out for traffic when crossing or near roadways.
18. Mow in **REVERSE ONLY** after careful observation of the entire area behind the mower. **DO NOT** mow in **REVERSE** unless *absolutely necessary*!
19. Service the mower and make adjustments **ONLY** when the engine is stopped.
20. Have the mower serviced by an authorized **SNAPPER** Dealer at least once a year and have the dealer install any new safety devices.
21. Use only genuine **SNAPPER** replacement parts to assure that original standards are maintained.
22. Tighten all nuts, bolts and screws frequently; check, adjust, repair or replace brakes as needed.
23. Lubricate the mower at intervals specified in this manual to prevent controls from binding.
24. Mow only in daylight or in good artificial light.
25. Handle gasoline with care! Never remove the cap while the engine is running. Fill tank outdoors and only with engine stopped and cool. Clean spilled gasoline from machine. Store gasoline in an approved container, out of the reach of children, and in a well ventilated, unoccupied building.
26. **DO NOT** run the engine indoors. *Exhaust fumes are dangerous!* Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas which can seriously impair the health of persons and pets!
27. **DO NOT** change the engine governor speed settings or overspeed engine.
28. On grass catcher equipped mowers, check the grass catcher components frequently for signs of wear or deterioration and replace as needed to prevent thrown objects from going through weak or worn spots.
29. Exercise caution when pulling loads. Limit loads to those which you can safely control. Attach loads to the hitch plate as specified in **SNAPPER** attachment instructions.

## INTRODUCTION

This manual covers SNAPPER Series 12 (last two numbers in the model designation) Automatic Blade Stop and Smooth Start Clutch equipped rear engine riding mower.

See your **SNAPPER** Dealer for information on the many accessories available for your riding mower and examine **SNAPPER'S** complete line of outstanding power equipment!

**Always stop the blade, shift into neutral and set the parking brake when it becomes necessary to leave your rider momentarily while the engine is running!**

## CONTROLS/FEATURES

1-C	<b>Battery (If Equipped)</b>
2-C	<b>Belt Cover</b>
3-C	<b>Blade Lever</b>
4-C	<b>Blade Pedals</b>
5-C	<b>Clutch/Brake Pedal</b>
6-C	<b>Cutting Height Lever</b>
7-C	<b>Discharge Deflector</b>
8-C	<b>Engine Control Lever</b>
9-C	<b>Front Tire (20 P.S.I.)</b>
10-C	<b>Fuel Filler Cap/Valve</b>
11-C	<b>Ignition Key/Switch</b>
12-C	<b>Operator's Seat</b>
13-C	<b>Parking Brake Lever</b>
14-C	<b>Rear Bumper</b>
15-C	<b>Rear Tire (12 P.S.I.)</b>
16-C	<b>Rope Start Handle (If Equipped)</b>
17-C	<b>Transmission Shift Lever</b>

To set the parking brake, depress the CLUTCH/BRAKE pedal (5-C) and then slide the PARKING BRAKE lever (13-C) toward the LEFT until it locks the CLUTCH/BRAKE pedal in place. To release the parking brake, tap the CLUTCH/BRAKE pedal with your foot.

**FIG. 1-A**  
**CLUTCH/BRAKE**  
**DETAIL**

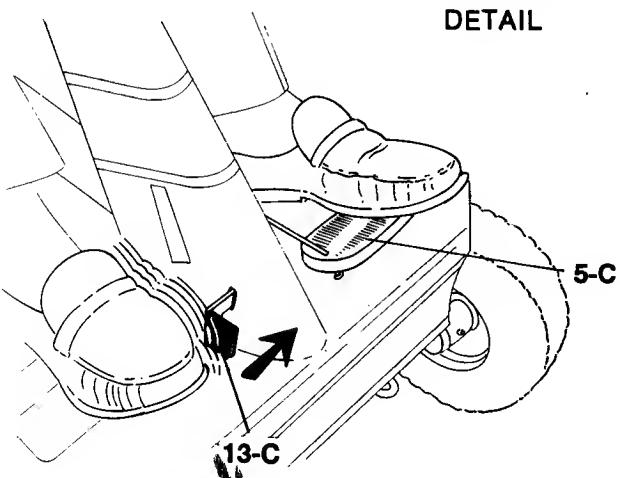
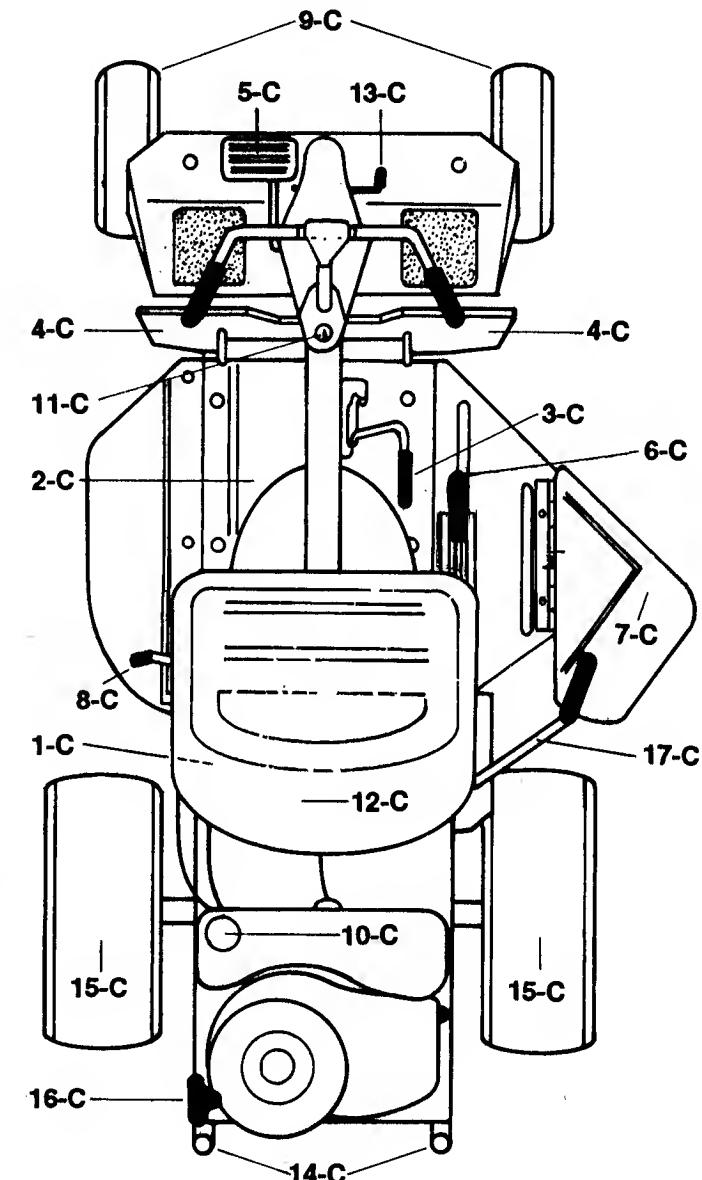


Diagram illustrating the left and right sides of a vehicle. A large left-pointing arrow is labeled "LEFT SIDE" in bold black capital letters. A large right-pointing arrow is labeled "RIGHT SIDE" in bold black capital letters. Below the arrows, the text "AS VIEWED FROM THE OPERATOR'S SEAT" is centered in bold black capital letters.



#### FIG. 1 - LOCATION OF CONTROLS/FEATURES

## PRE-START CHECKS & SERVICE

1. CHECK BLADE CONTROLS. The controls must work freely and be properly adjusted. The BLADE lever (3-C) must "snap" from ON to OFF when the BLADE pedals (4-C) are released.
2. CHECK GUARDS, DEFLECTORS & COVERS. They must be in place and securely fastened.
3. CHECK ENGINE OIL. The oil level should be at the "FULL" mark on the dipstick - never over fill! Add oil if needed (refer to engine manual for oil specifications).
4. CHECK TIRES. Air pressure should be 20 p.s.i. in the front tires (9-C) and 12 p.s.i. in the rear tires (15-C). Add air if needed.
5. CLEAN EXTERIOR SURFACES. Remove any accumulation of dirt, grass, oil, etc. from the engine and mower deck. Keep the engine air intake screens and cooling fins clean at all times.
6. ADD FUEL. Pour fuel into the tank only when the rider is OUT-DOORS where fumes can safely dissipate. Make sure the FUEL FILLER CAP (10-C) is tightened after each refueling.

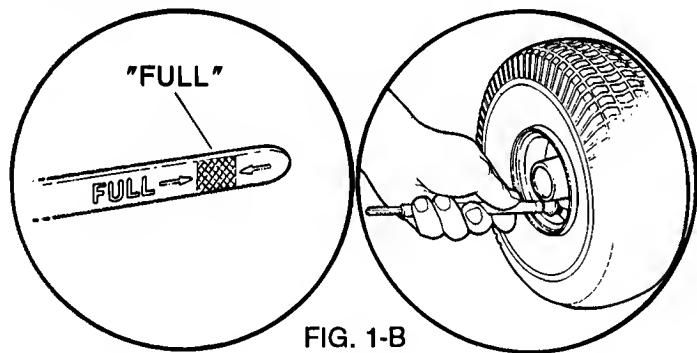


FIG. 1-B

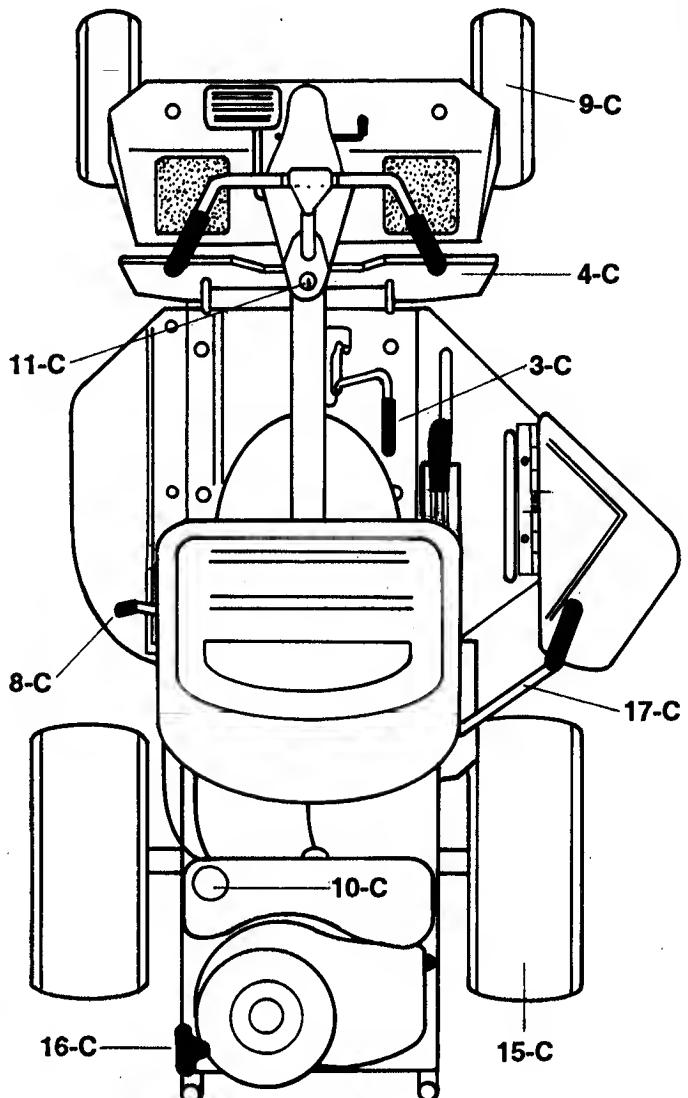


FIG. 1-C

## STARTING & STOPPING ENGINE

### START ENGINE AS FOLLOWS:

STEP 1: SHIFT BLADE lever (3-C) to OFF and the TRANSMISSION SHIFT lever (17-C) to NEU (Neutral) - interlocks will then allow the engine to start.

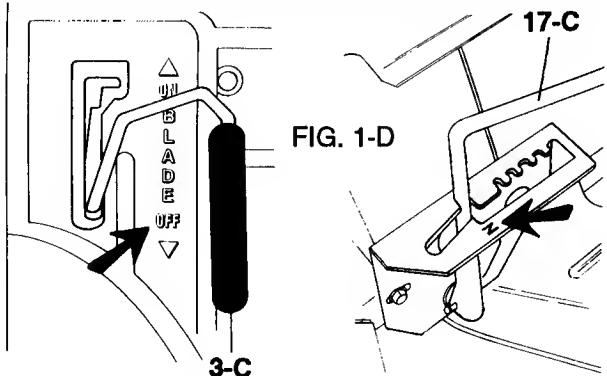


FIG. 1-D

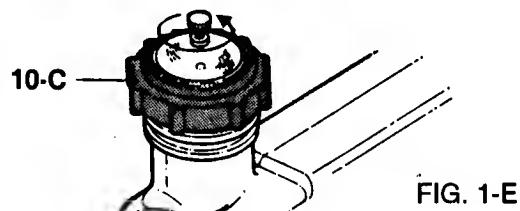


FIG. 1-E

STEP 3: CHOKE ENGINE - To start a cold engine, move the Engine Control Lever (8-C) FORWARD to the CHOKE position. To start a warm engine, move the lever to the FAST position.

STEP 4: MANUAL START ENGINE - Turn the ignition Key (11-C) to RUN and pull rope Start Handle (16-C) to start engine.

STEP 4-A: ELECTRIC START ENGINE - Turn the ignition Key (11-C) to START and hold until engine starts.

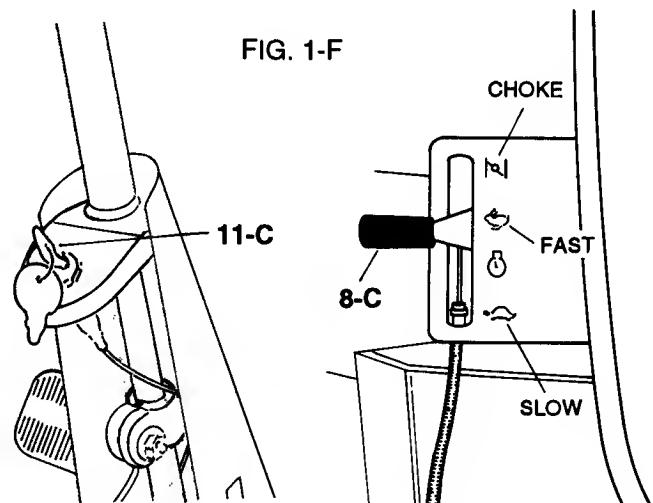
STEP 2: Open CAP VENT/FUEL VALVE (10-C) - turn the fuel filler cap "valve" counter-clockwise until it stops.

Release the key (to cool starter) IF the engine has been cranked for approximately 5 seconds but fails to start. Check the fuel and controls and then try again.

NOTE: Should the battery ever be too weak to start the engine (on Electric Start models), remove the battery and connect to a charger. Never "Boost" charge a battery. To prevent possible battery damage when charging, always slow ("Trickle") charge the battery.

STEP 5: ENGINE WARM-UP - After a brief period at the CHOKE position, move the Engine Control Lever (8-C) rearward until the engine runs smoothly. Set the lever at or near FAST for best cutting and bagging performance.

STEP 6: STOP ENGINE by turning the Ignition Key (11-C) LEFT to OFF.



## STARTING/STOPPING RIDER

**Become thoroughly familiar with the location and function of the forward & reverse direction controls: CLUTCH/BRAKE pedal (5-C), PARKING BRAKE Lever (13-C), and the TRANSMISSION SHIFT lever (17-C). Refer to FIG. 1-F & page 3.**

**FORWARD DIRECTION:** When partially depressed, the CLUTCH/BRAKE pedal (5-C) functions as a clutch, permitting shifting from neutral into either forward or reverse. Further depression of the pedal provides braking. When depressed, the pedal can be set for parking. Refer to page 3.

After shifting the TRANSMISSION SHIFT lever (17-C) into the #1 speed position, release the pedal to begin forward movement. Move the lever forward or rearward while traveling forward (without depressing the pedal) to shift into higher or lower FORWARD speeds. Always depress the CLUTCH/BRAKE pedal before shifting into or out of NEUTRAL. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE WILL RESULT IN DAMAGE TO THE DRIVE TIRE.

**REVERSE DIRECTION:** Before shifting into reverse, fully depress the CLUTCH/BRAKE pedal (5-C) to stop. Move the TRANSMISSION SHIFT lever (17-C) rearward into REV position and then completely release the pedal to begin moving in reverse. To stop while in reverse, fully depress the pedal.

**NOTE:** The rider can roll if the TRANSMISSION SHIFT Lever (17-C) is in neutral and the parking brake is NOT set!

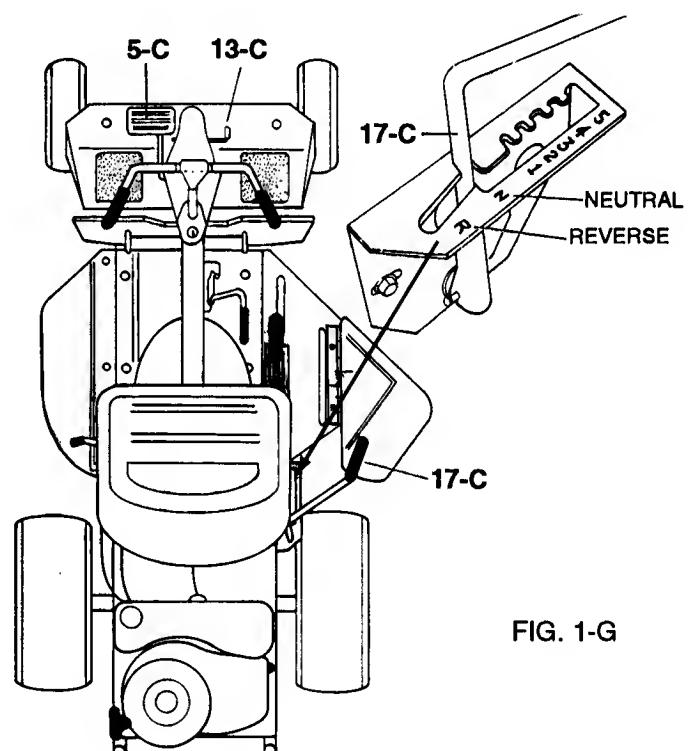


FIG. 1-G

## SMOOTH START CLUTCH OPERATION

AFTER the ground speed selector has been engaged, releasing foot pressure on the clutch pedal brings the rubber surface of the driven disc into contact with the rotating metal surface of the drive disc, and begins the driven disc's rotation mode. As more foot pressure is released, the brake lining on the inside of the rubber disc will continue to smoothly exert MORE pressure (additional friction) against the surface of the driven disc hub. The driven disc then transfers the rotational movement (energy) to the chain case, which in turn, drives the transmission. The more pressure applied, the better the pulling power!

**NOTE:** If the operator "rides the clutch" excessively during operation, or when starting motion, or releases foot pressure on the pedal too slowly, the machine may have a tendency to lop or make jerky movements. The unpleasant grinding sound which is emitted is a symptom of the condition. This method of operation will not harm the machine; however, the operator should be instructed to smoothly and slowly "FULLY" release the foot from the pedal to eliminate this condition.

## STARTING & STOPPING MOWER BLADE

The Automatic Blade Stop Controls should stop the blade in less than 3 seconds - **AFTER** the BLADE pedals (4-C) are released. The BLADE lever (3-C) must be shifted forward and to the right to activate the blade, and then the BLADE pedals (4-C) are depressed to keep the blade engaged.

**NOTE:** The BLADE lever will NOT move forward if the BLADE pedals are depressed first!

Start and Stop blade as follows:

**STEP 1:** Shift the BLADE lever forward and to the right to ON and hold in position. Then depress the BLADE pedals - keep your heel(s) on the pedals to "lock" the blade into the mowing (rotating) sequence.

**NOTE:** If STEP 1 is followed, the blade will rotate whenever the engine is running.

**STEP 2:** To stop the blade, remove your heel(s) from the BLADE pedals. The spring loaded BLADE lever will then snap rearward to OFF.

**NOTE:** The BLADE lever can be forced into OFF position while the BLADE pedals are depressed, by pushing the BLADE lever inward, and then pull rearward into OFF.

**NOTE:** If the BLADE lever moves SLOWLY rearward rather than snapping back, the belt may be too slack, or the linkage may need lubrication.

Adjust the belt and lubricate the mower (as described in the SERVICE section), and check the blade stopping time. If the time exceeds 3 seconds, adjust the blade brake as described on page 9. If the stopping time still exceeds 3 seconds, the mower should not be operated until inspected/repair by your dealer.

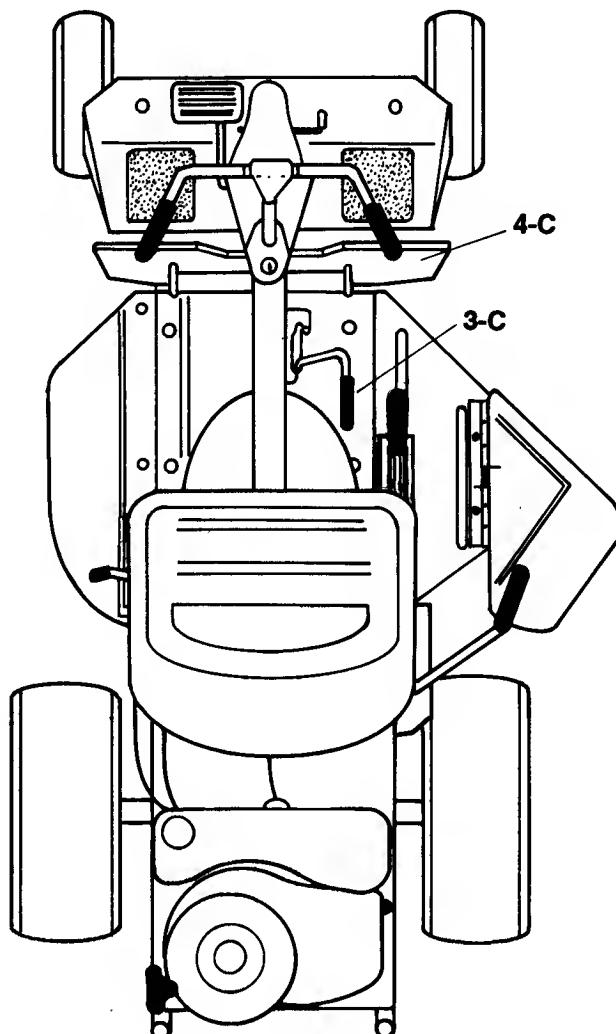


FIG. 1-H

## SERVICE

### SERVICE ASSISTANCE/REPLACEMENT PARTS

By returning your mower to an Authorized SNAPPER Dealer on a yearly basis for inspection and addition of any new devices to upgrade your mower, the safety of the unit's functions will be assured.

Check the yellow pages under LAWNMOWERS for the nearest SNAPPER Dealer. Always mention the MODEL and SERIAL NUMBER of your mower when contacting the dealer for parts, service, or information.

For engine parts/service, check under ENGINES - gasoline, for nearest engine manufacturer's dealer.

**NOTE:** Always take the following steps before standing your SNAPPER rear engine rider on the REAR BUMPER.

1. TIGHTEN FUEL FILLER CAP (10-C)
2. CLOSE (TURN CLOCKWISE) THE VENT VALVE ON FUEL FILLER CAP (10-C)
3. REMOVE THE BATTERY (1-C) IF THE UNIT IS TO BE STOOD ON END LONGER THAN 2 HOURS.

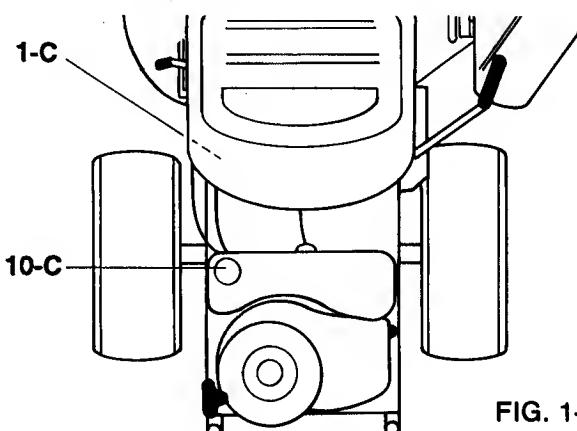


FIG. 1-I

It is recommended that rear engine riders sit on the REAR BUMPER during the servicing of lubrication points on the underside. When preparing to raise the front, position BOTH hands near the center of the front frame "lip" to prevent any possibility of having fingers pinched by tie rods.

It is recommended that you use Genuine SNAPPER Replacement Parts to retain the integrity of your mower.

## LUBRICATION SCHEDULE

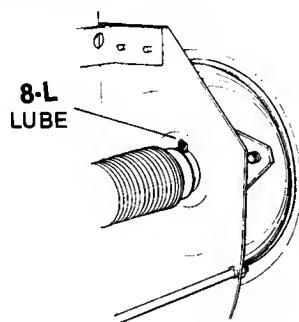
### EVERY 25 OPERATING HOURS:

- FRONT WHEEL BEARINGS: Lubricate through grease fittings (6-L) with bearing grease from a pressure gun.

- REAR LEFT AXLE BEARING: Series 10 riders are equipped with a grease fitting (8-L). Lubricate the bearing through the fitting with 2 shots of bearing grease from a pressure gun.

NOTE: The rear right axle bearing is lubricated by the transmission on all models.

FIG. 2-C  
REAR AXLE  
LUBE POINT



## ENGINE SERVICE

- ENGINE: Change oil per Instructions in engine manual. Check oil level before each use.

- AIR CLEANER: Clean and/or replace air cleaner element(s) per instructions in engine manual.

It is recommended that the air cleaner be periodically inspected when adding fuel, and inspected more frequently when the machine is operated in dry, dusty environments.

### EVERY 6 MONTHS:

- REMOVE THE BELT COVER (2-C): Carefully clean any debris from all areas under cover.
- BLADE LEVER (3-C): Lubricate idler arm and engagement lever at each wear point with a few drops of oil. Also lube idler arm pivot at the mower deck.
- BLADE PEDALS (1-L): Lubricate all pivoting and sliding surfaces where motion occurs (when pedals are moved) with a few drops of oil. Reinstall BELT COVER.

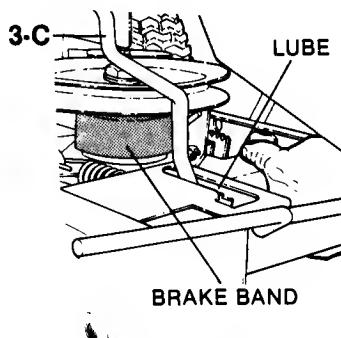
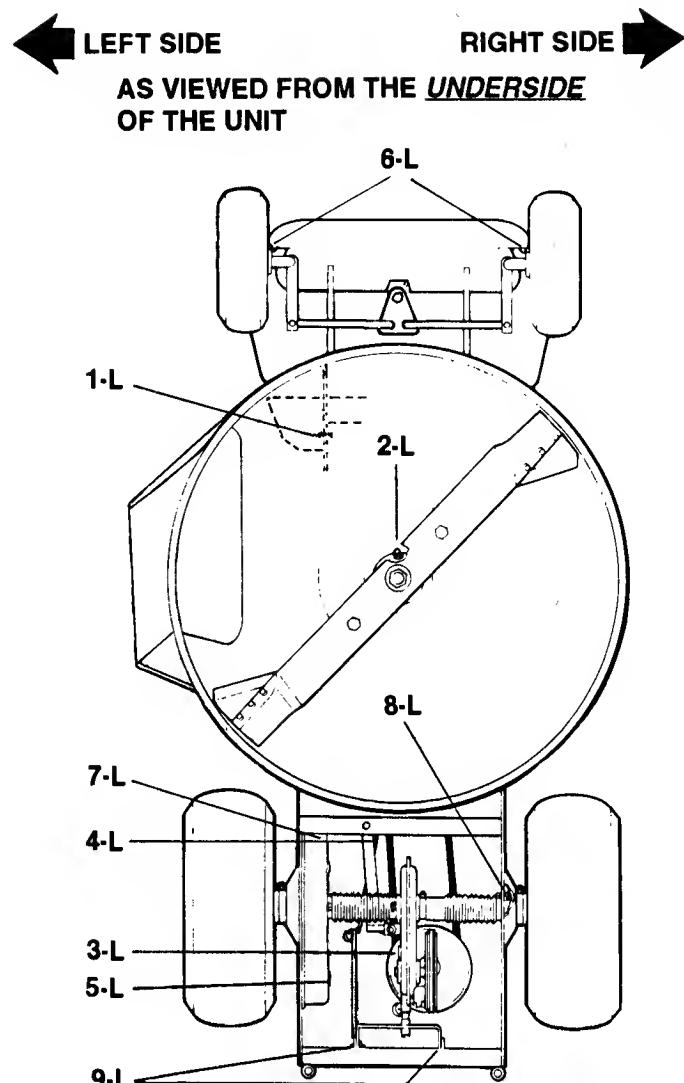


FIG. 2-A



- |     |                                 |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1-L | BLADE PEDAL - Pivot Points      |
| 2-L | BLADE SPINDLE - Grease Fittings |
| 3-L | CHAIN CASE - Check Plug         |
| 4-L | DIFFERENTIAL - Check Plug       |
| 5-L | FRONT WHEEL - Grease Fittings   |
| 6-L | REAR AXLE - Grease Fitting      |
| 7-L | SHIFT ARM - Pivot Points        |
| 8-L | YOKE - Pivot Points             |
| 9-L |                                 |

FIG. 2 - LUBRICATION & SERVICE POINTS

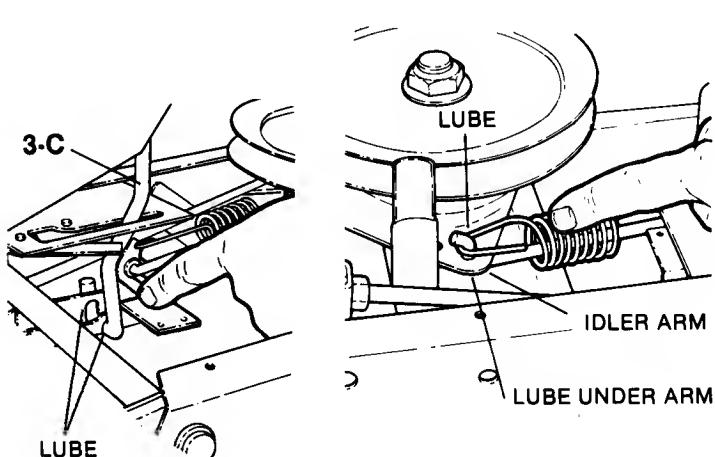
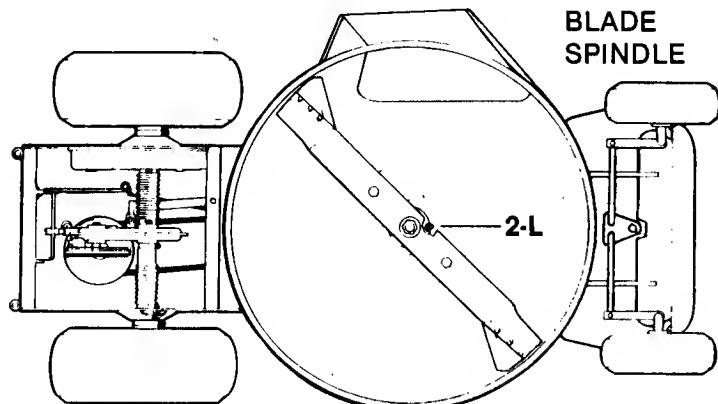


FIG. 2-B

## ONCE A YEAR

### STAND MOWER ON REAR BUMPER

- **BLADE SPINDLE**: Two shots of grease through grease fitting (2-L) is required. The fitting is between the deck and the blade.



- **DIFFERENTIAL**: Lubrication of the differential should be done by your **SNAPPER** dealer. The lubricant used in the differential is a clinging grease which does not flow. Therefore, making an accurate inspection of the lubricant level is difficult.

- **CHAIN CASE**: Remove **CHAIN CASE CHECK PLUG** (3-L) and add about 1 ounce of **SNAPPER** 0 grease to case if low - avoid over filling. Total capacity must not exceed 2 ounces. Install new plug.

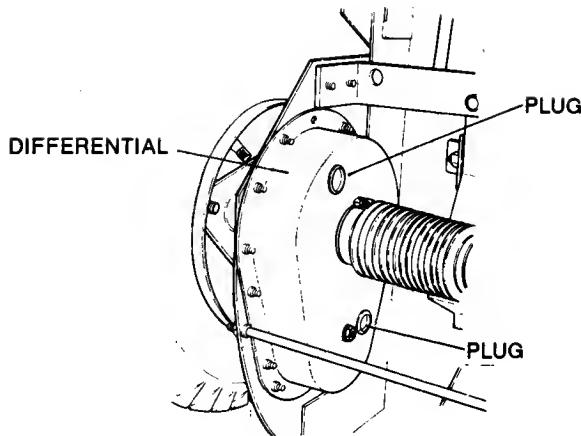


FIG. 4 - DIFFERENTIAL LUBE LEVEL

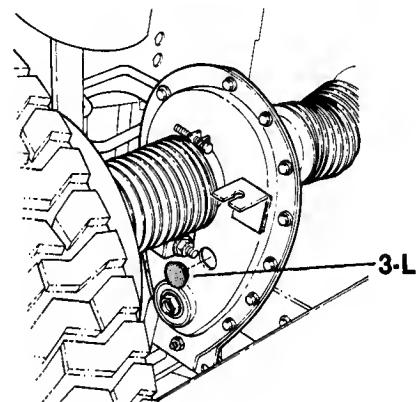


FIG. 5 - CHAIN CASE

### FUEL FILTER- (DOES NOT APPLY TO 6HP ENGINES)

The in-line filter (between fuel tank and engine) protects the engine from damage due to gasoline impurities. Also, check the hose clamps for any leakage. Replace the filter (**SNAPPER**#1-4359) before the screen becomes completely clogged with sediment. When the filter appears dark (in the screen area), and/or if the engine becomes "starved" for fuel, will not accelerate properly, misses, or stalls under load, the filter should be replaced.

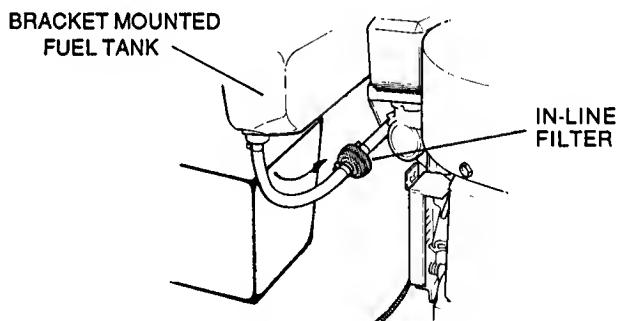


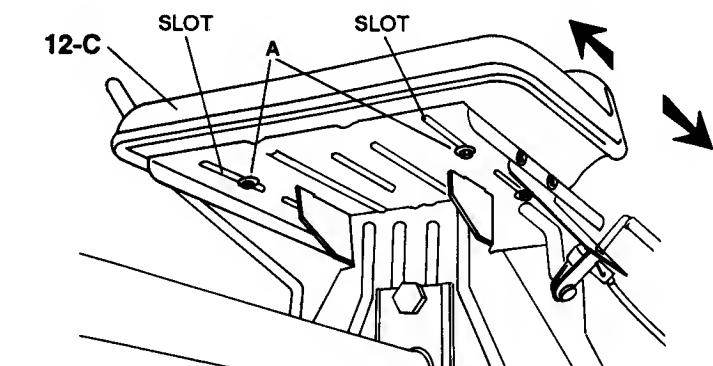
FIG. 6 - FUEL TANK & FILTER

### OPERATOR'S SEAT

The Operator's Seat (12-C) may be moved either forward or toward the rear of unit to enable individuals of varying heights to comfortably steer and control the rider.

To adjust the seat, loosen the 2 FORWARD cap screws (A); they are located on the underside of the slotted mounting bracket. Move the seat in the desired direction, and then retighten both screws.

Also, for taller operators, the offset steering wheel may be rotated 180 degrees. If assistance is needed, contact your **SNAPPER** Dealer.



## BELT TENSION ADJUSTMENT & REPLACEMENT

Shut the engine off first! DISCONNECT THE SPARK PLUG WIRE, and then remove the belt cover.

With the mower deck in the #5 height position and the blade in the ON position, check the distance between the inside surfaces of the belt as shown in FIG. 9 - the clearance should be from 1" to 1-1/2". The belt tension is adjusted by changing the "distance" between the main tube's vertical bracket (X) and the FRONT of the rear case. Remove the shoulder bolt (Y) from above the main tube and pull the front assembly FORWARD, increasing the belt tension until the correct amount is achieved. Remove one or more spacers as needed, from in front of the vertical bracket and move to the backside (between the bracket and the case). Then reinstall and securely tighten the shoulder bolt (Y).

After "distance" has been changed, check operation of the clutch/brake pedal and readjust the brake control cable, if needed, for proper traction and braking. Refer to the Brake section.

If the belt becomes frayed, cracked, or worn, replace it as follows: Remove the BELT COVER, then cut and remove the old belt. To install a new belt, close the fuel cap (10-C) valve. Stand the mower on the REAR BUMPER (14-C), shift into NEUTRAL, and work the belt between discs, then shift into #5 speed and push belt over edge of engine drive disc. Work belt into the groove of the drive disc, then position other end in pulleys on mower deck as follows: Loosen or remove the idler pulley, loop the belt around spindle pulley as shown in FIG. 9 and work belt between restrictor and idler pulley.

## BLADE BRAKE ADJUSTMENT

As the brake band wears, The BLADE lever will gradually stop further rearward in the slot of the BELT COVER. Blade brake adjustment is required when the lever stops more than 1/4" behind the latch plate. Refer to FIG. 10. The adjusting point s shown in FIG.11. With the engine STOPPED, the adjustment is made as follows:

STEP 1: Lower cutting deck and remove the BELT COVER.

STEP 2: Move the BLADE lever to the ON position, press the BLADE pedals down and hold, then turn the nut on the end of the eye bolt (clockwise) several complete turns. Make sure the nut lock is positioned properly to fit over the anchor.

STEP 3: Release the BLADE pedals to allow the BLADE lever to move to the OFF position, then depress the BLADE pedals again. Check the clearance between the forward edge of the BLADE lever and the rear edge of the latch plate - there should be less than 1/4" (see FIG. 10) clearance. Repeat the procedure in STEP 2 if needed, to obtain correct clearance. Reinstall the BELT COVER.

Make sure the locking tab on the restrictor is engaged in idler arm before securing idler arm nut and bolt. Be sure the belt is inside all belt guides. Check and adjust belt tension as needed before reinstalling the BELT COVER.

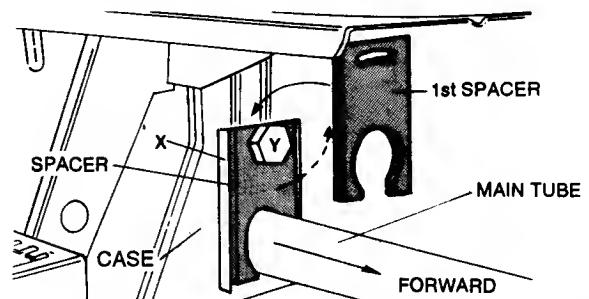


FIG. 8 - BELT ADJUSTMENT  
(LOCATED UNDER SEAT)

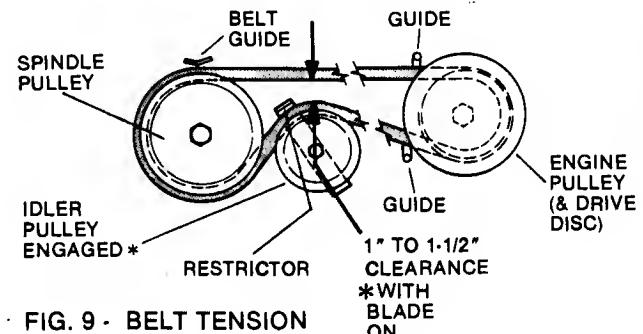


FIG. 9 - BELT TENSION

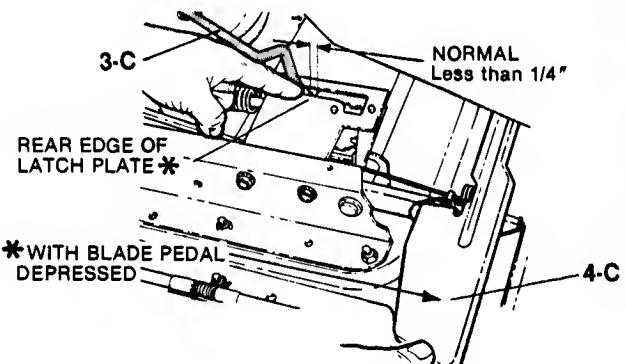


FIG. 10 - BLADE LEVER TRAVEL

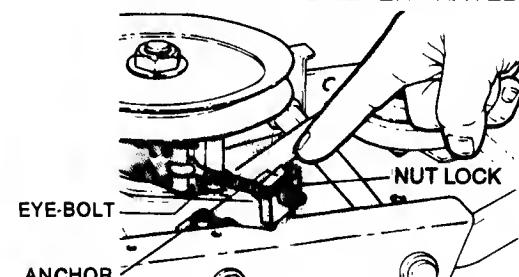


FIG. 11 - BLADE BRAKE ADJUSTMENT  
WHEEL BRAKE TEST & ADJUSTMENT

Test the wheel braking action at frequent intervals to insure proper stopping in the event of possible emergencies. Normally, the rider should stop from FAST (top forward speed) within approximately three feet after the CLUTCH/BRAKE pedal has been fully depressed.

**WARNING:** Always disconnect the spark plug wire and secure the end away from the plug before inspecting/servicing the rider/mower, to prevent unintentional start-ups.

Prior to making brake adjustment, check to see that the mower belt is adjusted properly.

Stand the rider on its REAR BUMPER (14-C), engage the PARKING BRAKE (13-C), shift the TRANSMISSION SHIFT lever (17-C) to the REVERSE position, and then check the distance between the DRIVEN DISC rubber drive ring and the surface of the DRIVE DISC. There should be between 1/16" and 1/8" clearance.

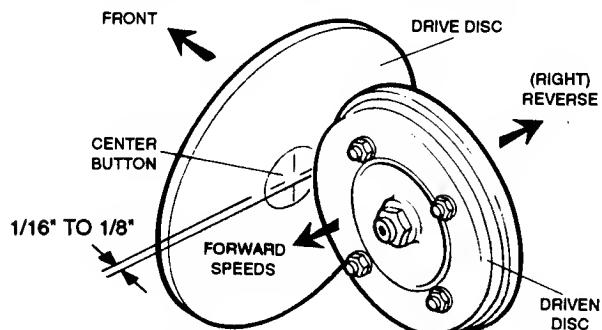


FIG. 11-A - DISTANCE BETWEEN DISCS

If the proper distance is not evident, the clutch/brake cable needs to be adjusted. Release the parking brake, rotate the clutch yoke to provide slack in the cable, and then move 1 of the spacers (Y) through the "keyhole" slot in the CLUTCH/BRAKE pedal (X) to the end of the cable. Re-engage the parking brake and again check the clearance between the rubber ring and the drive disc. Repeat this procedure until the proper distance is achieved. See your SNAPPER Dealer for assistance if required.

To adjust the brake (with the parking brake on), loosen both jam nuts (A) which secure the clutch/brake cable threaded tube (B) to the chain case bracket as shown. Then, by screwing the two jam nuts up or down, the tube can be moved to change the distance the cable end is recessed INSIDE the spring guide (tube), which is attached to the brake lever. Adjust the threaded tube up or down until the cable end is recessed between 3/16" to 7/16" from the cotter pin. Retighten both jam nuts (A) against bracket (C).

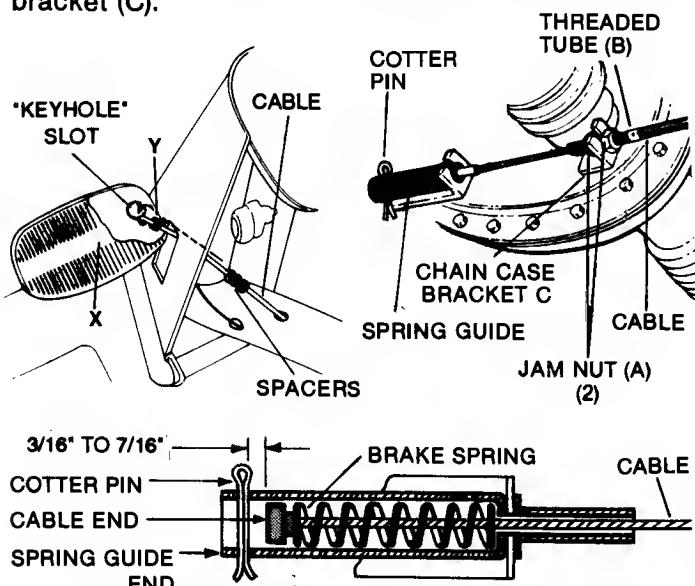
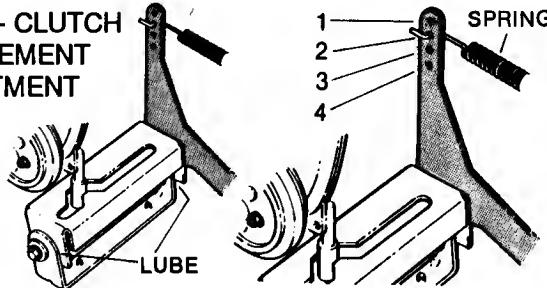


FIG. 12 - CLUTCH/BRAKE ADJUSTMENT

## CLUTCH ENGAGEMENT ADJUSTMENT

Adjustment is made by repositioning the yoke lift spring. Initially the spring is hooked through the #2 hole (second from end) in the clutch link - there are 4 holes. With the spring hooked in the #2 hole, the clutch will have smooth action under normal loads. Hook the spring in #1 hole to pull heavier loads. If when releasing foot pressure on the CLUTCH/BRAKE pedal (5-C), the rider tends to "hop" rather than start forward or reverse motion smoothly, hook the spring through hole #3 or #4 to attain smoother starts.

FIG. 13 - CLUTCH ENGAGEMENT ADJUSTMENT



## CUTTING BLADE SERVICE

**BE CAREFUL:** Avoid cutting yourself on a sharp blade! Wear gloves to protect your hands while handling the blade.

Check the blade at frequent intervals for proper tightness and operating condition. Replace if chipped, bent or notched. Sharpen if in otherwise good condition-at an angle of 22-28 degrees inward about 2-1/2" from tips. Check blade for balance and correct to prevent vibration. Install the blade with retaining hardware as shown in FIG. 14 and tighten to torque specified.

Check levelness (straightness) of the blade "TIPS". Mark one (A) and the other (B). Scribe a mark on the deck at the lip. By rotating the blade, measure the distance "TIP" (A) and then "TIP" (B) each are from the marked lip.

If there is a difference of more than 1/16" between the two measurements, level the "TIPS" by loosening the two jam nuts, and turn each of the two jackscrews either clockwise or counter-clockwise until the "TIPS" are within 1/16" of each other. Then retighten the jam nuts against the blade bar.

**NOTE:** If after inspection, the blade tips are found to rotate closer to one point on deck lip, the lateral position of spindle housing needs to be re-centered by your Authorized SNAPPER Dealer.

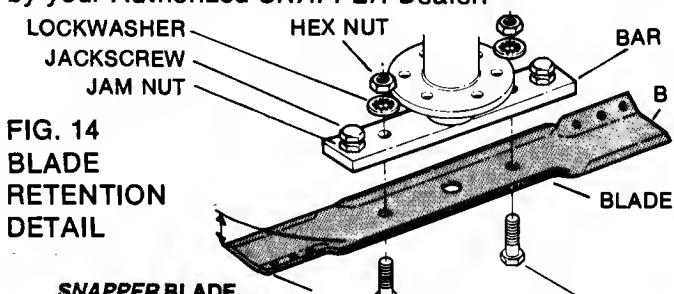


FIG. 14  
BLADE  
RETENTION  
DETAIL

SNAPPER BLADE  
25" MOWER - USE #1-9618  
26" MOWER - USE #1-8068  
28" MOWER - USE #1-9515  
30" MOWER - USE #1-8069

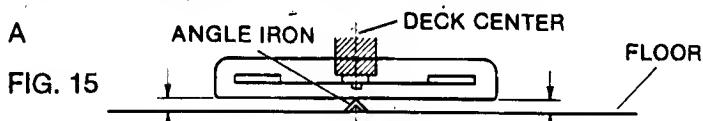
## CUTTING DECK SERVICE

If the mower cuts an "uneven" swath, follow the procedures below:

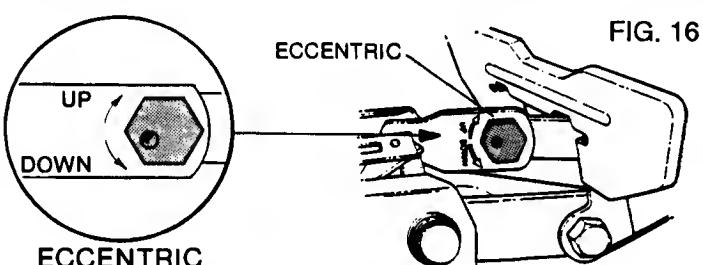
1. Slow the rider's forward movement (shift into a lower speed) and move the ENGINE CONTROL LEVER (8-C) toward FAST.
2. Check belt tension (refer to BELT ADJUSTMENT section).
3. If the cut is uneven from side to side, check tire pressure. The front should be 20 p.s.i. and the rear are properly inflated at 12 p.s.i..
4. If an uneven pattern persists, roll the rider onto a smooth, flat, level surface (such as a garage floor), turn the ignition key (11-C) to OFF, and be sure the BLADE lever (3-C) is in the OFF position. Check the mower deck settings as follows:

**SIDE TO SIDE LEVEL (30"):** Raise the deck and place a triangular block (such as a piece of angle iron) under the deck at the rear lip (at the center) and then lower the deck onto the block. Your SNAPPER dealer should be consulted to level a 25", 26", or 28" deck.

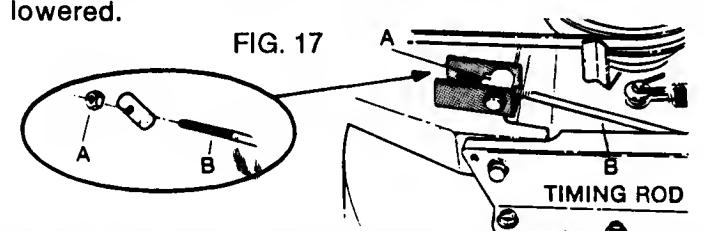
A. Measure the clearance between the lip and the floor at the RIGHT side and at the LEFT side of deck. There should be  $1/8"$  or less difference between the two measurements.



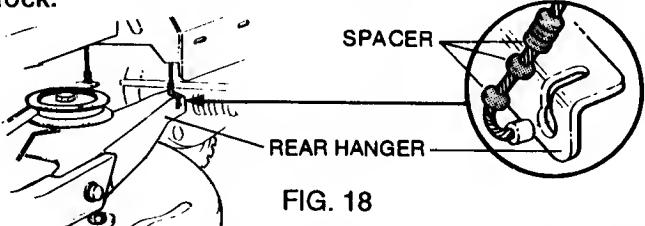
To level the deck, adjust the ECCENTRIC (located on the front LEFT mower lift arm). Loosen the shoulder bolt, rotate the eccentric toward UP or toward DOWN as needed and hold in place while retightening the shoulder bolt. Then, again measure the distance to the floor as described in A after removing the block.



**FRONT TO REAR ADJUSTMENT:** The distance the mower deck is from the ground surface is pre-set at an optimum level. Should the deck pitch ever need to be "fine tuned", the adjusting nut "A" should be screwed in or out only by a technician at your SNAPPER Dealer. Timing rod "B" maintains the levelness of the deck - front to rear as the deck is raised or lowered.

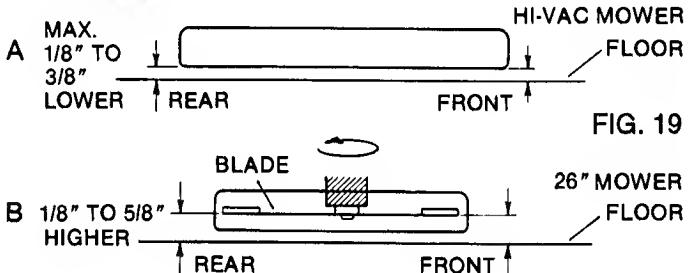


To reset deck (distance from ground surface), adjust rear lift bracket at hanger cables. Raise deck, and place block under center rear of deck - under lip. Lower deck onto block to permit some slack in cables. By relocating the same number of spacers on each cable above the keyhole slot in each "arm" of the lift bracket, the rear of deck will be lowered; placing an equal number of spacers below the slot in each "arm" raises the deck. Raise deck and remove block.



A. On HI-VAC mowers, measure the distance from the front and rear lower edges of the deck to the floor. The rear edge should be level with, or no more than,  $3/8"$  lower than the front edge.

B. On mowers with the 26" deck, align one blade tip to face the front of rider and measure the distance from the tip to the floor. Rotate the blade and measure the distance (from the same tip) to the floor while the tip is facing the rear of rider. The distance at the rear should be  $1/8"$  to  $5/8"$  more than at the front.



**NOTE:** Blade to floor clearance may be measured through the deck discharge opening (raise discharge deflector).

Contact your SNAPPER Dealer if the "uneven" mowing pattern remains - after inspecting and adjusting.

## BATTERY SERVICE (WHEN EQUIPPED)

Check the fluid in the battery at frequent intervals to make sure the level is above the MIN. FILL line. To keep the fluid in proper range, remove the cell caps and add distilled water as needed to bring the level in each cell up to but not over, the MAX. FILL line. In freezing weather, always charge the battery after adding water. The engine is equipped with a flywheel alternator to maintain battery charge when run frequently. Keep the specific gravity of the battery above 1.250-if lower than 1.175, the battery liquid may freeze at temperature around zero degrees Fahrenheit. If battery charge is low, disconnect terminal wires and recharge on an automotive type charger following instructions provided with the charger. For best results, slow charge 1 amp for 10 hours or if time does not permit, fast charge at 3 amp rate for 4 hours. Always disconnect the battery negative terminal first and reconnect it last. Keep the red boot over the positive terminal!

## BATTERY STORAGE

Recharge the battery once each month during the off season storage period. To prevent damage due to exposed cells, remove the wet cell type battery before standing the mower on end during storage. Store the battery in a vented area preferably where temperatures remain above 32 degrees Fahrenheit, but not too warm. DO NOT store a battery on a concrete floor.

## STORAGE PROCEDURE

If desired, stand the mower on end during off-season storage provided the following steps are taken beforehand:

1. Remove wet cell type battery (see BATTERY STORAGE).
2. Thoroughly clean surfaces and lubricate machine (See LUBRICATION SERVICES).
3. Drain fuel from tank and close vent on the fuel filler cap.
4. Service engine for storage as described in the engine owner's manual.

After storing on end, the following steps are required to prepare the engine for operation again. Turn the IGNITION SWITCH off and pull the ROPE START HANDLE slowly. If excessive resistance is felt or if the engine refuses to rotate, remove the spark plug and pull handle again to clear cylinder of oil. Clean and reinstall the spark plug.

## MOWING HINTS

Before starting to mow, move the ENGINE CONTROL lever forward (into the FAST position). Set the TRANSMISSION SHIFT lever in a mid speed setting and the CUTTING HEIGHT lever in a raised position.

Then, experiment and adjust cutting height and forward speed until the mower is functioning best for your particular conditions.

**NOTE:** The engine is designed to be run at "FULL THROTTLE" while the grass is being cut.

If the ground is dry and dusty, and grass is sparse, be aware that the vacuum action of the blade will create a dust storm! Also, when fertilizing the lawn with a dry-type fertilizer, don't use the mower until after there has been a shower or the lawn has been sprinkled.

Changing your mowing pattern from time to time creates a smoother cut lawn. Finely chopped clippings add nutrients to the soil to promote grass growth. However, if accumulation becomes too heavy, matting develops and thatch is formed which prevents breathing, holds excessive moisture, and can destroy root structure.

The SNAPPER Thatcherizer (Thatcherizer Kit #6-0948) is the answer to this problem. It will prevent such destruction from occurring by dislodging excessive thatch, thus enabling you to vacuum, sweep, or rake and remove any harmful accumulation as well as expose twigs and any other debris.

## MANUFACTURER'S LIMITED WARRANTIES

### \* 1 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

For one (1) year from purchase date for the original purchaser's residential, non-commercial use [ninety (90) days from purchase date for the original purchaser's commercial, rental, or other non-residential use], SNAPPER, through any SNAPPER Dealer, will replace, free of charge, any part or parts found upon examination by the factory at McDonough, Georgia, to be defective in material or workmanship or both.

### \* 2 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

For two (2) years from purchase date for the original purchaser's residential, non-commercial use [ninety (90) days from purchase date for the original purchaser's commercial, rental, or other non-residential use], SNAPPER, through any SNAPPER Dealer, will replace, free of charge, any part or parts found upon examination by the factory at McDonough, Georgia, to be defective in material or workmanship or both.

All transportation cost incurred by the purchaser in submitting material to a SNAPPER dealer for replacement under the Limited Warranty coverage which applies to that particular model product, must be borne by the purchaser.

These warranties do not apply to engines and their components, as these items are warranted separately by their manufacturers, and do not apply to batteries which are covered separately. These warranties do not apply to parts that have been damaged by accident, alteration, abuse, improper lubrication, normal wear, or other cause beyond our control.

There are no other express warranties.

Implied warranties, including those of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, are limited to either one (1) or two (2) years from the purchase date for the original purchaser's residential, non-commercial use [ninety (90) days from purchase for the original PURCHASER'S commercial, rental or other non-residential use], and to the extent permitted by law any and all implied warranties are excluded. This is the exclusive remedy. Liabilities for consequential damages, under any and all warranties are excluded.

Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, or do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

\* The applicable 1 Year or 2 Year Limited Warranty, gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

**WARNING: THE USE OF REPLACEMENT PARTS OTHER THAN GENUINE SNAPPER PARTS MAY IMPAIR THE SAFETY OF SNAPPER PRODUCTS AND WILL VOID ANY LIABILITY AND WARRANTY BY SNAPPER ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF SUCH PARTS.**

**IMPORTANT: Please fill out the attached SNAPPER Product Registration Card immediately and mail to: SNAPPER, McDONOUGH, GEORGIA 30253**